

# TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ralph C. Link, Pastor  
 Christ Church, Duncannon 9:00 A.M.  
 Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 10:30 A.M.

## THE ORDER OF WORSHIP March 26, 1972

The Organ Prelude  
 \*The Hymn of Praise 7  
 \*The Call to Worship  
 \*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)  
 Our Father, as on this day we keep the special memory of our Redeemer's entry into the city, so grant, O Lord, that now and ever he may triumph in our hearts. Let the King of grace and glory enter in, and let us lay ourselves and all we are in full and joyful homage before him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.  
 \*The Kyrie  
 \*The Assurance of Pardon  
 The Scripture----Matthew 21:1-17  
 \*The Gloria Patri  
 The Anthem (Trinity)  
 The Pastoral Prayer  
 The Announcements  
 The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings  
 \*The Doxology  
 \*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer  
 The Rite of Confirmation: The Charge--The Vows--Confession of Faith--Prayer of Consecration--The Confirmation--Prayer of Thanksgiving  
 The Hymn of Meditation 133  
 The Sermon----Lenten Music:  
 "Of Colts and Men"  
 The Sermon Prayer  
 \*The Hymn of Response 184  
 \*The Benediction  
 \*The Threefold Amen  
 \*The Postlude

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

You are all invited to attend the Tenebra Service held in Christ Church Maundy Thurs. March 30th at 7:30 PM.

Next Sunday we will celebrate our Easter Holy Communion. As we gather about the Lord's table let us remember our commitment to Him and to His church as well. Our O.C.W.M. apportionment gifts ~~as~~ on appears in both churches. Please consider this in your thoughts and prayers.

\$57.00

## CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Collection

Total amount for One Great Hour of Sharing was \$170.00.

The Churches of Duncannon collected and sent 383 pounds of clothing and 67 layettes during the last clothing collection for Church World Service. Our Church collected 120 pounds and the ladies made 13 layettes. The above figures should give a good indication of the efforts of the women of the congregation.

## TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Total amount for One Great Hour of Sharing was \$75.04.

We welcome the following into the Church as new members, through the Rite of Confirmation; Alan Kempf, Tina Magee, Craig Sausman, Mari Jo Sausman, and Dan Sausman. The Pastor would like to thank each of them for their faithfulness, and also to the parents for their cooperation.

Lenten Music:  
"Of Cloaks And Men"

MATT

Text: Matthew 21: 7 "Then they laid their cloaks on their backs and he sat on them."

(Illustration of the Missionary in India)

"All hail the power of Jesus' name, let angels prostrate fall!

Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all.

Even in the playing of a simple hymn such as this the Power of Jesus's name is evident. In the lifetime of Jesus he heard the acclaim of Hail twice. Actually it was acclaimed three times, but the first acclaim he did not hear since he was only an infant. But the second time was in Jerusalem when the crowds threw palm branches and their cloaks in the roadway to make a path for their Lord. And waving palm branches, they shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David," which was their acknowledgment of him as the Messiah. In other words they were saying, "Hail to you our Redeemer."

Then just a few short days later Jesus must have stood in agonised pain, with the crown of thorns digging into his head and causing the blood to drip down his face into his eyes, and dropping onto his torn and bleeding shoulders from the beating he had just gone through at the hands of the Roman soldiers. Think of him standing there, as the soldiers put a robe on him and bowed before him and said, "Hail, king of the Jews," And while they did this, some of them waved a reed before him, similar to the reeds and palm waved several days before. The only difference was that this was done in mockery. And when they had finished their sport, they led him out to crucify him. After he was hung on the cross, he had to endure the "Hail king of the Jews bit," from those who stood around and mocked.

Once he heard the Hail in tones of reverence and adoration and then he heard the Hail in mockery and in scorn. But in this, as in all of his life, he had the quality of humility about him. Jesus must have

never lost his sense of humility. He went about his work and his task with a dedication found in few people. He accepted his fate and did it without show and without bravado. His life and his ministry was not one of pomp and regal splendor. He wasn't a handshaker, or a headline seeker. He wasn't a social climber or a joiner of all the local groups to become known and famous. He was simply a quiet, unassuming, ~~dedicated~~ dedicated, unpretentious man outwardly. For all of his powers, and for all of his divinity, he lived and was a common person.

The author G. K. Chesterton wrote about the donkey in a way that the donkey was speaking. He was fed up with the sneers about him. With the jokes of those who thought of him as being stupid, ungraceful, awkward and dumb. So the donkey explodes,

(Illustration of donkey)

We still tend to think of this animal as all of these unflattering things. We make sport of them and we see games being played while riding them and we can laugh and call them stupid and stubborn and what have you, but the fact remains that of all the more regal and more magnificent animals, that donkey, was a sign of the kingship of the Prince of Peace. He could have ridden on a proud well trained Arabian steed. He probably could have ridden on a well trained and well groomed camel. But instead he rode on the mild and unpretentious donkey. This was a sign of coming in peace. It was also a fulfillment of the prophecy of the coming of the Messiah. So when we are tempted to look askance at what we consider some of the lesser, or some of the more inferior breeds around us, let us remember the example of our Saviour Jesus Christ. This is humility. (Illustration of Gen. Lee and slave)

Here was a man of high station in life who was not afraid to humble himself to set an example. When we do this we are following in the footsteps of our Lord. This is what Christianity is all about.

In our last session as a class, the young men and the young



ladies ~~were discussing~~ (received or from N. Bloom. confirmation class), were discussing the meaning of church membership. We talked of the needs of the church. We talked how we need the church and why the church needs us. In this conversation we came around to the subject of service in the church, of using our abilities and the talents that we each have for serving the Lord in some capacity in the church. Some of them suggested that perhaps they did not have much that they could use for Christ. (Quote from Dr. Sangster a noted English preacher)

Jesus taught us to use what we have and to go on from there. Most people know defeat from time to time. But what we do with defeat is what either makes or breaks us. A hundred men may start in business tomorrow and in five or six years only a few will still be in business. We start a million children in school and at the end of ten or twelve years a good portion will have dropped out of the educational process. All because of defeat. We want to do well but too often defeat has a way of overcoming some people.

George Washington hardly won a battle of the Revolutionary War. But he studied the situation, withdrew and conserved his strength and his reserves, and ~~after~~ out of one defeat after another, won the war. Mark Twain in a financial deal lost everything he had. But instead of bemoaning the fact and quitting he paid back all of his debts and turned defeat into victory.

Admiral Byrd was dropped from the United States Navy for physical reasons, but flew to the North Pole and flew to the South Pole and was made an admiral in the Navy which had twice dropped him.

Phillips Brooks once received a letter which read as follows, "I'm a tailor in a little shop near your church. When I can I attend. When I hear you preach I forget you, for you make me think of God." Phillips Brooks tried to be a teacher at Harvard and was defeated. Yet he became the greatest preacher in the America of his day.

David Livingstone wanted to go to China, but this plan was thwarted. He went to Africa and there became one of the world's best known missionaries.

Paul wanted to go to Asia but was defeated in this. **BUT** instead he went in the other direction and so we have Christianity as we know it through a goodly measure of his efforts.

Peter said he would stick by his Lord to the very end and we all know the ~~end~~ <sup>FINAL</sup> result, how he denied him and turned completely from him. Yet, his name heads the list of all the disciples.

Robert Louis Stevenson, Helen Keller, and many others have overcome illness and handicaps to become not only world renowned but to become victors over what would have been defeat.

(Quote by ~~XXXXX~~ Vice President of World Vision International)

The urge to serve to be of help to our fellow man and to serve our Saviour Jesus Christ should be the motivating force in our lives. We should not question what ability we have. Rather, we should ask, "Where can I serve best?"

In ~~his~~ of the very wonderful and fascinating book about Dr. L. Nelson Bell, "A Foreign Devil In China," one cannot help but come to the understanding that here was a man who could have been world famous as an eminent surgeon. Yet, he devoted his life to sewing on the torn ears of Chinese peasants and putting back their torn and mutilated bodies in an effort to help them. He did this with love and compassion and all the while he gave to them Jesus Christ.

Another young man also went into the missionary field.  
(Illustration of young man after college and being boulder for Christ).

Common? Yes. So many millions of people are only common rocks and boulders in this world. But they have a purpose and are needed. Not every one can be eminent in his field. Not everyone can be in the

"O that with yonder sacred throng We at his feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song, And crown him Lord of all;  
We'll join the everlasting song, And crown Him Lord of all.



Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife  
 Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link  
 Ethan and Alisha in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)











Ralph C. Link  
153 Keck Road  
Sarver, Pa. 16055  
(412) 352-1103

Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Married: December 15, 1951  
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill  
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

**SCHOOLING:**

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United  
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,  
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

**PASTORATES:**

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in  
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ  
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary  
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity  
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central  
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of  
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United  
Church of Christ



## PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

# STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.